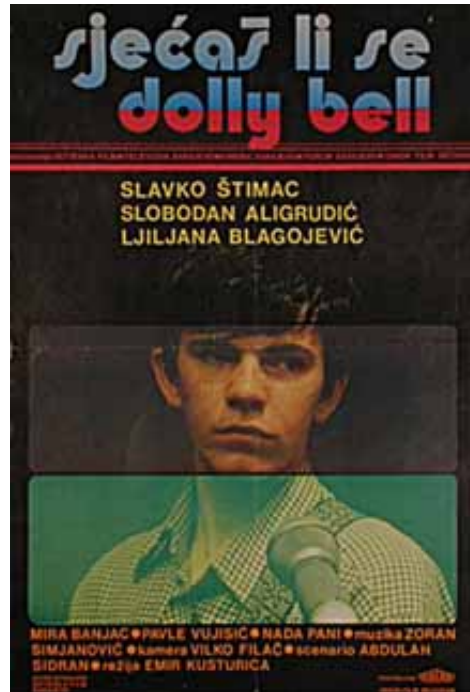


## **Sjecas li se dolly bell? - Do you remember Dolly Bell? - A classic serbian movie by Emir Kusturica**

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**Sjecas li se dolly** is a piece of classic in the well known Kusturica genre, the movie is from the distant 1981. The movie action takes place in communistic Yugoslavia. It clearly contains anti-communistic nuances. I'm really amazed that this movie see the light of the day in the early '90s while still communism had strong influence on information media in Yugoslavia.

As I've lived until the age of 7 in communism and post-communism (and experienced myself communism), the movie was especially interesting to see. In the family in the movie I can see many things I've seen and suffered many of the anti-human communistic bull-shit in my own family in my boy years.

Communism has crippled us the Bulgarians as a nation and destroyed any society which it was in (clearly observable in all post-communistic countries).

Interesting thing to notice among the communistic Marxist ideas in the plot is the growing influence of the Western World (seen in the anti social behavior of the actors), the enthusiasm to look for occult of the main actor the teenager boy - (Dino), the desire to look follow Italian western culture etc.

The movie also keeps the mark of the negativism and crazyness which is so distinct about all Kusturica movies I've seen. Anyways from an art point of view the movie is a real master piece.

The movie plot takes place in the so conflict area of Sarajevo, a place predominated by Muslims. What is shocking about the movie considering its time of make, is the explicit erotic and sexually related scenes. The censorship in communistic times was quite severe so it's amazing, how this anti-communistic movie

containing society unacceptable scenes ever came to existence.

**Do you remember Dolly Bell?** is a drama movie, presenting a sad reality, we still partially continue to live in the Balkans. Though 20 years has passed since the fall of communism pitily not much has changed here...

Near the movie end there are some religious scenes as well obviously attempting to fill in the material emptiness of communism with something spiritual. The religious scene, is a muslim local tradition of a funeral preparations.

The relation between the movie and Islam is understandable as Kosturica had some Bosnian Muslim roots from the line of his father. This kind of muslim influence is also observable on the other Kosturica movies as well.

Nowdays since 2005, Kosturica is officially Orthodox Christian baptized in Savina Monastery which makes me happy as myself am Orthodox Christian ;)